

**SUBTITLE ANALYSIS OF THE IDIOMATIC  
EXPRESSIONS USED IN THE SUBTITLES OF *THAT THING  
YOU DO!* MOVIE**



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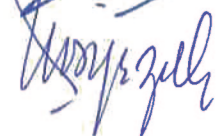
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Surakarta, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2019

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## SUBTITLE ANALYSIS OF THE IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS USED IN THE SUBTITLES OF *THAT THING YOU DO!* MOVIE

### Abstrak

Fokus penelitian ini adalah analisa penerjemahan dalam naskah film *That Thing You Do!* Tujuan penelitian adalah untuk mengklasifikasikan tipe-tipe idiom yang ada pada naskah, mengklasifikasi bentuk lingusitiknya, dan menggambarkan kualitas penerjemahan idiom-idiom tersebut. Penelitian ini berjenis kualitatif deskriptif, dengan menggunakan naskah film *That Thing You Do!* sebagai objeknya. Penulis menggunakan teknik dokumentasi untuk mendapatkan 83 data yang ada. Penulis menggunakan beberapa teori yaitu Fernando (1996), Nababan (2012), dan Baker (1992). Berdasarkan data yang telah dianalisis, hasil yang terlihat adalah (1) ada 3 jenis idiom yang terdapat pada naskah film tersebut; pure idiom (63.9 %), semi idiom (33.7%), dan literal idiom (2.4%), (2) terdapat 24.1% idiom dalam bentuk kalimat, 4.8% dalam bentuk klausa, dan 71.1% dalam bentuk frase, (3) terdapat 60 data akurat atau 72.2%, 9 data kurang akurat atau 10.9%, dan 14 data tidak akurat atau 16.9%, (4) terdapat 4 strategi penerjemahan; omisi dengan 48.2% data, paraphrase dengan 26.5% data, penerjemahan dengan makna dan bentuk serupa dengan 13.3% data, dan penerjemahan dengan makna yang sama tetapi bentuk kata berbeda dengan 9.6% data.

**Kata kunci:** idiom, teks bawah pada film, penerjemahan, *That Thing You Do!*

### Abstract

The focus of this research is the idiomatic expressions that are found in the script of *That Thing You Do!* movie. This research has three objectives; to classify the types of idiomatic expressions found in the movie script, to classify the linguistics forms, and to describe their accuracy in the translation. This research is descriptive qualitative, with *That Thing You Do!* movie script as the object of the study. The writer uses technique of documentation to collect the 83 data. The data analysis refers to the theory of Idioms' Classification by Fernando (1996), the Accuracy of Subtitling by Nababan (2012), and Subtitling Strategies by Baker (1992). Based on the data analysis, the results show that (1) there are 3 types of idioms in the movie script; pure idioms (63.9 %), semi idioms (33.7%), and literal idioms (2.4%), (2) there are 24.1% of idioms in the form of sentences, 4.8% form of clauses, and 71.1% of phrases, (3) there are 60 data or 72.2% accurate subtitling, 9 data or 10.9% less accurate subtitling, and 14 data or 16.9% of inaccurate subtitling. In addition, there are 4 strategies of subtitling found in the data; omission with 48.2% data, paraphrase with 26.5%, using idiom with similar meaning and form with 13.3% data, and using idiom with similar meaning and dissimilar form with 9.6% data.

**Keywords:** Idiomatic expressions, subtitle, translation, *That Thing You Do!*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool that is used to communicate with other people. It is used to convey messages to others in oral or written way. It is obvious that every country has their own different languages, but English is the most used one in the world as the international language. English has become one of the most important aspects to master in order to survive nowadays. It means we have to know how to translate well in order to be able to communicate in English properly.

Translation solely has one purpose, it is to deliver particular message from the one language into another. When learning a new language, including English, people usually have to deal with idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expressions can be very confusing and tricky, especially those that are found in movies. This happens because the lines are spoken, and not written. The dialogues also usually happen so fast that the audiences barely follow the storyline. However, the main cause of misunderstanding of idiomatic expressions meanings is culture differences and linguistics.

In his book of *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and application* (2008) Munday stated: “The process of translation between two different written languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)”.

While Ammer (1997) mentioned that an idiom is a set phrase of two or more words that means something different from the literal meaning of the individual words. As for example, the phrase *on the house* has nothing to do with a literal house but means ‘it’s free’.

A subtitle is a textual version of the dialogue in movies and the likes, usually displayed at the bottom of the screen. They can be in a written form of translation of a dialogue, or literally the dialogue in the same language with purpose to help deaf or non-native audience. *TranslationDirectory.com* defines subtitling as words that translate what is said in a film in a different language and appear on the bottom of the screen.

There have been a few previous studies conducted on this topic which is closely related to this research paper as references. The first study is conducted by Ambarwati, entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF THE IDIOMATIC TRANSLATION FOUND IN THE SUBTITLES OF MOVIE ENTITLED *SCREAM*”. She was an English student of Airlangga University. Her research is the closest study to this thesis because they have the objectives, which is the subtitling found in movie script. The second one is conducted also by a former student from English Department named Nisa’. Her research is entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION METHOD USED IN THE ENGLISH SUBTITLE OF AN INDONESIAN FILM ENTITLED *BERBAGI SUAMI*”. She completed this study in 2008.

In this research, the writer uses several theories, they are Fernando’s clarification of idioms (1996), Nababan’s accuracy of subtitling (2012), and Baker’s strategies of subtitling (1992). Fernando (1996) proposed that there are 3 types of idiomatic expressions: pure, semi, and literal idioms. While according to Nababan (2012), accuracy is used in the evaluation of translation to conclude whether the translation from the source language into the target language is accurate or not. Furthermore, Baker stated that there are 4 strategies of subtitling; paraphrasing, omission, using idioms of the same meaning and form, and using idioms with similar meaning and dissimilar form.

This study particularly focuses on analyzing the idiomatic expressions of the movie entitled *That Thing You Do!* In this case, the movie script that would be analyzed is based on a movie entitled *That Thing You Do!*, that was produced by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and released in 1996. *That Thing You Do!* is the very first movie written and directed by Tom Hanks. The movie tells a story of a pop rock band formed in America in the early 1964. Guy Patterson, half-heartedly working in his family’s appliance store, is recruited into the band the Wonders after the original drummer breaks his right arm. After Guy gives a rock beat into lead singer’s ballad song, it brings the Wonders into a brief success. But when they reach the top, things happen and the fallout of the band was bound to happen.

There are 83 idiomatic expressions found in the movie. The number of idiomatic expressions is enough to be researched and to be analyzed whether or not

there are misinterpreted expressions. Idioms cannot be translated literally because they have their own meaning. The researcher downloaded both English and Indonesian subtitles from a trusted website named *subscene.com*. *Subscene.com* is a resource for subtitles used by people globally.

Translating idiomatic expressions has been very problematic and difficult for many people, especially non-native speakers. Translation and idioms are interconnected, therefore, one needs to comprehend. Take this example, “to hit the nail on the head” usually has meaning that has nothing related with carpentry at all. It simply means “to be perfectly right”. Thus, this demands us to have a good translation skill in learning idioms.

## **2. METHOD**

The focus of this particular study is the idiomatic expressions in the script of *That Thing You Do!* movie. This study has a few objectives; to classify the types of idiomatic expressions found in the script, to classify the linguistics form, and to describe the accuracy of their translation. This research is descriptive qualitative, because of the purposes it has: to classify the types of idioms, the linguistics forms, and to describe the accuracy of the data. The source of the data was the idiomatic expressions found in the *That Thing You Do!* movie and its subtitle. The writer uses technique of documentation to collect the data that were taken from *subscene.com*. The data were then analyzed based on the theory of idioms classifications by Fernando (1996), accuracy of subtitling by Nababan (2012), and subtitling strategies by Baker (1992).

## **3. RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION**

In this particular section of the research, the writer delivers the research finding from the analyzed data of *That Thing You Do!* movie and its subtitle. The findings that will be delivered by the writer are types of the idioms, linguistics forms, and the accuracy of the subtitling in said movie.



### 3.1 Types of Idiomatic Expressions and Strategies of Subtitling

There are 81 data of idiomatic expressions found in the movie script. The writer uses Fernando's theory of classification of idioms. According to Fernando (1996), there are three types of idioms; they are pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. The writer also uses Baker's theory of subtitling strategies, which, according to her book *In Other Words* (1992), there are four types of them; paraphrase, omission, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and using an idiom of similar meaning and dissimilar form. From the data, the writer found 22 uses of paraphrase strategy, 40 of omission, 11 of using idioms of similar meaning and form, and 8 uses of using idioms of similar meaning and dissimilar form.

#### 3.1.1 Pure Idiom

A pure idiom is a non-literal expression which has meaning that cannot be understood by translating word-to-word. Pure idioms usually have non-literal meaning. There are 51 of pure idioms found in the movie script.

**094/TTYD/SL5/TL16**

SL: **Eat my shorts**, captain.

TL: **Makan celanaku**, kapten.

The subtitling strategy used in this subtitling is using idiom with similar meaning and form. The conversation occurred in a college talent show where The Wonders went into. After a performance of an all-girls band, the MC went up the stage to greet the audience. He was an energetic but not-so-funny guy, for an MC. When he made a cheesy and unfunny joke to the audience in the room, a boy kept interrupting him and the MC finally snapped, threatening to *kick his ass* but the kid only respond with "*Eat my shorts, captain*". The translation was entirely wrong because the respond had nothing to do with shorts at all. "Eat my shorts" is a dismissal expression of one's frustration with someone. Although it was more a I-don't-care expression instead of anger or frustration, the translation was still wrong. The more accurate translation should be "*Terserah deh, pak*".

### 3.1.2 Semi Idiom

A semi idiom at least has one literal word and one non-literal word element. From the data, the writer found as many as 28 semi idioms in the movie script.

**723/TTYD/SL107/TL92**

SL: **Fire one up.**

TL: **Nyalakan satu.**

This subtitling uses paraphrase strategy. Fire up can have different meaning that depends on its context. In this context, the character asked his assistant for a cigarette. The translator translated the phrasal verb as ‘nyalakan satu’ which is correct according to the context. According to *idioms.thefreedictionary.com*, fire up can mean to light something, typically something to be smoked such as cigarette or pipe. In this usage, a noun or pronoun can be used between ‘fire’ and ‘up’. Therefore, this idiom can be classified as semi idiom.

### 3.1.3 Literal Idiom

A literal meaning is when a word or phrase is used exactly as it is defined. There are only 3 data found from the script for the literal idiom section.

**844/TTYD/SL125/TL135**

SL: I'm gonna **go up** and have a chat

TL: Aku akan **ke atas** dan ngobrol.

The strategy used in this subtitling is using idiom of similar meaning and form. The dialogue happened after when Mr. White did a little brief with The Wonders and said that he should leave and go upstairs to talk with his boss. The translator literally translated the phrasal verb ‘go up’ as ‘ke atas’ which is correct. The word ‘go’ means ‘pergi’ in Indonesian and ‘up’ means ‘atas’. When translated to Indonesian, ‘go up’ should be better as ‘pergi ke atas’, but it doesn’t matter since the audience will still understand the meaning. The phrasal verb is classified as literal idiom because it can be translated word-to-word and still makes sense.

### 3.2 Linguistics Forms

Linguistics form means a meaningful unit of speech, such as a word, a phrase, and a sentence, which also called speech form. There are four forms of linguistics; sentence, clause, phrase, and word. Since the writer analyzes idiomatic expressions, the word form will be omitted. From the 83 data found in the movie script, there are 18 sentences, 4 clauses, and a total 59 of phrases.

#### 3.2.1 Sentence

A sentence is the largest unit that is described in grammar (Greenbaum, 2002). A sentence has a set of words that typically contains a subject and a predicate. There are 18 of idioms in the form of sentences.

**186/TTYD/SL/TL**

**SL: You're talking gibberish.**

**TL: Kalian membual.**

"You're talking gibberish" is a sentence that often translated literally in Indonesian as "Kamu bicara seperti sampah". The dialogue happened when Faye gave out her idea considering the on-going search of the band's name, which was then settled as The Oneders (pronounced as The Wonders). Lenny didn't seem to like it then he said "*you're talking gibberish*". It is considered as a sentence because it contains a subject and a verb. This idiom can be classified as declarative sentence. Since the sentence only has one independent clause, it is classified as simple sentence. The sentence would make more sense if translated as "*Bicaramu ngaco*" in Indonesian.

#### 3.2.2 Clause

According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, clause is a grammatical unit that consists of a subject and a predicate, and can stand on its own. It is a part of a sentence. There are 4 idioms in the form of clauses found in the data.

**380/TTYD/SL/TL**

**SL: Door went up** on your second set tonight.

**TL: Pintu terbuka untukmu** pada set kedua malam ini.

Although the translator translated this clause wrong, the writer only analyzes linguistics forms in this very part of the research. The dialogue occurred after The Wonders performed in an Italian restaurant. They were asked to perform there because of their popularity among the youth in Eerie. As expected to the owner, the place was the crowded with young people enjoying the band's performances. He told Lenny that the door went up on their second set that night. *Door went up* is classified as a clause. This clause is considered as main clause/independent clause because it contains a subject and a predicate and can stand on its own. *Door went up* here means that more of customers came to the restaurant because The Wonders was playing there. Therefore the more accurate translation should be "*Pelanggan membeludak pada set kedua kalian malam ini*".

### 3.2.3 Phrase

A phrase is a small group of words forming together as a unit. Venhaar (2001) state that phrase is a group of words which actually are functional parts of longer speech. The writer found 69 idioms in the form of phrases in the movie script.

#### 401/TTYD/SL/TL

SL: How 'bout **sittin' in** for Chad, just for tonight?

TL: Bagaimana kalau kau **gantikan** Chad, untuk malam ini?

The dialogue occurred when Jimmy and Lenny went to Guy's appliances store to ask if he could 'sit in' for Chad that night. Before that, the members were hanging out together in town. Chad was playing around with the bassist (which in fact, was unnamed in the movie), when suddenly he fell down and broke his right arm. As a drummer, he couldn't play with only one arm, so the rest of the band members went and asked Guy if he could play as their drummer for the time being. "Sittin' in" is considered as a phrase, for it cannot stand on its own. Because of the consistency of a gerund verb and a preposition, this phrase in classified a gerund verb. A phrasal verb usually has different meaning from the original verb. 'Sit in' means to temporarily act as a substitute for someone else, typically followed by 'for' before the object. The sentence is accurately

translated into Indonesian as “*Bagaimana kalau kau gantikan Chad, untuk mala mini?*”

### 3.3 The Accuracy of Subtitling

The writer uses Nababan’s theory of quality of subtitling. Nababan (2012) stated that accuracy is a term used in the evaluation of translation that refers to whether or not the translation from the source language to target language is accurate. It is the condition or quality of something being true, correct, or precise. According to Nababan, there are three aspects for a translation to be considered good, it should fulfill; accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

In this part of the research, the researcher analyzes the accuracy of the subtitling in the movie script. There are 61 accurate subtitling, 6 from the less accurate ones, and 14 inaccurate subtitling.

#### 3.3.1 Accurate

A subtitling is considered accurate if every meaning of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences from source language is translated accurately into the target language with no distortion. There are 61 accurate translations that are found in the movie script.

##### **040/TTYD/SL/TL**

**SL: I’m cookin’ the books** as usual, Dad.

**TL: Aku sedang mengerjakan pembukuan** seperti biasa, Ayah.

From the subtitle above, the sentence is accurately translated into the target language. The translator fulfilled the rules of Indonesian grammatical order. The dialogue happened when Guy was getting a call from his father, asking why are the lights in the store are on, despite the fact that the store was supposed to be closed by that time. The idiom ‘cooking the books’, which was translated into ‘*mengerjakan pembukuan*’, is a figurative language which meaning is actually to do dirty accounting. You input false numbers and then you “cook” them to make the business look better than it originally is. The translator understood fully the

meaning of the idiom, therefore he/she was able to use just the right words and terms to translate the subtitle.

### 3.3.2 Less Accurate

A subtitling is considered less accurate when audience can understand the content of the source sentence, but there are still some rewriting and change of word choices needed. The writer found 6 less accurate data in the movie script.

**051/TTYD/SL/TL**

**SL: Anyway, I wasn't wild about that.**

**TL: Bagaimanapun juga, aku tidak tergila-gila dengan itu.**

The dialogue occurred when the band members are having a breakfast together at a breakfast place in town. They were discussing about what name they would choose for the band's name. When Faye asked Jimmy that she thought he has already decided on The Echoes, he said that some band has already had that name and that he wasn't actually "wild" with the idea. The translator translated the sentence above as '*Aku tidak tergila-gila dengan itu*', which is considered less accurate because the evaluator understood the meaning, but it needs the right choice of words. The translator translated the word 'wild' into the target language as '*tergila-gila*', which in English would have meaning as, more or less, 'crazy over' (something). The writer thinks the best translation for the sentence above is '*Lagipula, aku tidak terlalu suka nama itu*', as it doesn't exaggerate the translation and conveys the meaning accurately.

### 3.3.3 Inaccurate

A subtitling is considered as inaccurate if the text of the source language is conveyed inaccurately into the target language. There are wrong choice of lexical items used and awkward relationship between every phrase, clause, and sentence. The writer found 14 inaccurate translations in the movie script.

**1284/TTYD/SL/TL**

**SL: Which artists popped your cherry?**

**TL: Siapa artis yang mempopulerkan kalian?**

The dialogue above occurred when The Wonders' band members were being interviewed in a radio. The interviewer asked them many questions mainly

about their early career and the band's history. After a few questions, the interviewer asked "Which artists popped your cherry?", and the translator translated it as '*Artis mana yang mempopulerkan kalian?*'

This is actually a sex-related idiomatic expression. In sex-related context, "cherry" is referring to a woman's hymen before first sex. If a woman is practicing sex for the first time, this hymen will break, and her "cherry" is finally "popped". In musical context, this expression is asking who was the artist that inspired them to create a musical band? This explanation makes the writer believe that the most accurate translation should be "*Siapakah artis yang menginspirasi kalian?*"

In this part of the research, the writer discusses the result of data findings and analysis above. Based on the objectives of the study, the findings are classification of types of the idioms, linguistics forms, and the accuracy of the subtitling in the movie script. After analyzing the related data, the writer delivers the findings that there are 3 types of idioms found the movie script. There are pure idioms (63.9 %), semi idioms (33.7%), and literal idioms (2.4%).

Another finding is classification of the linguistics forms of the idioms found in the movie script. There are 4 forms of linguistics; sentence, clause, phrase, and word. However, the form word would be omitted from this research because there are no idioms with only a word. In the finding above, there are 24.1% of idioms in the form of sentences, 4.8% form of clauses, and 71.1% of phrases.

The last finding in this research will be the accuracy of the subtitling. Nababan (2012) stated that there are three aspects for a subtitling to be good in quality; its accuracy, acceptability, and readability. However in this research, the writer only analyzes the accuracy of subtitling. From the total of 83 data found in the movie script, there are 60 data or 72.2% accurate subtitling, 9 data or 10.9% less accurate subtitling, and 14 data or 16.9% of inaccurate subtitling.

The writer compares this research with previous study about idiomatic expressions. The study entitled *An Analysis of the Translation of the Idiomatic Expressions Used in the Subtitles of Tangled*, was conducted by Suliman (UWP,

2013). He described the translation quality of the movie and he used technique of collecting data by documentation. From total 26 data found by Suliman, it was concluded that there are 11 data of accurate and 15 data of inaccurate idioms translation in the movie script.

The second study was conducted by Akbar (UMS, 2016) entitled *An Analysis of Subtitling Strategies Used in the Revenant Movie*. In his research, it shows us the results that 1) the subtitling strategies found in the movie script are 8 types: there are Paraphrase 11.27%, Transfer 64.39%, Imitation 14.27%, Condensation 6.83%, Deletion 0.36%, and Resignation 0.12% and Transcription 0.12%; 2) Transfer and Imitation are the most used subtitling strategies in the research; 3) the quality of the subtitling is high because the accuracy level is at 80.5%, 90.4% on the acceptability, and high readability level is at 93.1% from the total of 672 data found.

Considering the previous studies above, it can be concluded that there are some similarity between the previous studies and this study in the terms of subtitling quality. However, there is difference in the matter of classification of idioms.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Focusing on the idiomatic expressions, the writer can draw conclusion on the types of the idioms, the linguistics form, and the accuracy of subtitling.

From the total of 81 data in the movie script, there are 3 types of idioms found. There are 51 or 62.9% data of pure idioms, 28 or 34.5% data of semi idioms, and only 3 or 3.7 data of literal idioms. It is found that pure idioms are the most dominant type in this research.

In addition, there are 4 forms of linguistics; sentence, clause, phrase, and word. However, the form word would be omitted from this research because there are no idioms with only a word. From the analysis, the writer concluded that there are 18 or 35.2% idioms in the form of sentences, 4 or 4.9% form of clauses, and 59 or 72.8% idioms in the form of phrases from the total of 81 data. Idioms in the form of phrase are the most dominant form with 71.1% total percentage.

In regard to the accuracy of subtitling, there are three aspects for a subtitling to be good in quality; its accuracy, acceptability, and readability. However in this



research, the writer only analyzes the accuracy of subtitling. . From the 81 total of data found, there are 61 data or 75.3% of accurate subtitling, 6 data or 7.4% of less accurate ones, and 14 data 17.2% of inaccurate subtitling. From the analysis done by the writer above, it can be concluded that the Indonesian subtitle of *That Thing You Do!* movie is decent in the matter of quality.

Moreover, this research also scrutinized the strategies of subtitling. Although it was not stated as the objective of this study, subtitling strategies are regarded as significant and an inherent part of subtitling analysis. Therefore, subtitling strategies are included in this research. There are 4 strategies of subtitling found in the data. They are omission with 48.2% data, paraphrase with 26.5%, using idiom with similar meaning and form with 13.3% data, and using idiom with similar meaning and dissimilar form with 9.6% data.

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